

# Modeling and Simulation of Resistive type Superconducting Fault Current Limiter

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**Abstract**— For upcoming smart grid one of the most essential topics regarding the implementation of Superconducting Fault Current Limiters (SFCL) is associated to its possible outcome on the reduction of abnormal fault Current. Due to the enlarge fault currents level, SFCL is more likely to infiltrate into a medium voltage and low voltage transmission network to lower the capacity of electric devices and improve their stability. Excessive fault current is a serious problem when grid connection of the micro grids with the current power grids, to be solved after implementation of SFCL in the network. SFCL is irresistible solution to limit fault current. Quick protection to the power system is provided by resistive type SFCL model. At present no Simulink model of SFCL has been introduced in the MATLAB library software. In this paper a Matlab/Simulink model for a resistive type SFCL is proposed. This paper first introduces a resistive type SFCL model in Matlab/Simulink and then simulates different types of fault and analysis is done without SFCL and with SFCL. The study shows that SFCL not only reduce the magnitude of fault current to a satisfactory level, but also damp transient recovery voltage. SFCL also improves the power system transient stability, power quality and reliability by reducing the fault current instantaneously.

**Keywords**— Smart grid, symmetrical faults, Power quality, SFCL, transient recovery voltage.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The requirement of the electricity in the world is increasing at a high rate including India and demand of power is greater than the supply of power due to bigger houses, population growth, air conditioners, bigger TVs and more computers. With the enormous increase on the electricity requirement, the scale of both renewable energy generation

systems and power grids is being expanded [1, 2]. Due to the obstinate increase of conventional power generation and Distributed Generations (DG), such as, solar power plants, photovoltaic plants and wind farms, the likelihood of fault incident capable to cause substantial and irreparable damage to a huge set of electrical equipments, or even system blackout, has been rapidly rising. This problem is now major concern for the Transmission System Operators (TSO), as increased fault current magnitude shows negative effects in terms of the security and reliability of the whole power system. Up to now, many techniques such as, higher impedance transformer, split bus bars and fuses have been used in many industries to suppress magnitude of the fault currents. However these devices can degrade the reliability of the power system and increases power loss [3, 4]. SFCL is one of the most emerging solutions to resolve the problem of increasing fault current. During normal operation, SFCL gives negligible voltage drop and energy losses [5]. The principle of SFCL is based on superconductivity. It states that —Any superconducting material is in superconducting stage as long as temperature, current and magnetic field density are below their critical limit. However, when any of the critical values defining the switching between the superconducting state to the normal state, such as critical current density ( $J_c$ ), critical temperature ( $T_c$ ), or critical magnetic field ( $H_c$ ), exceeds, then SFCL resistance adds in the circuit to suppress the magnitude of fault current [6]. Fig.1 shows the current with and without SFCL in different operating conditions. There are various types of SFCL, which can be classified as: Resistive type SFCL, Inductive type SFCL, Iron core type SFCL. In this paper resistive type SFCL is modeled in Matlab/Simulink [7, 8].

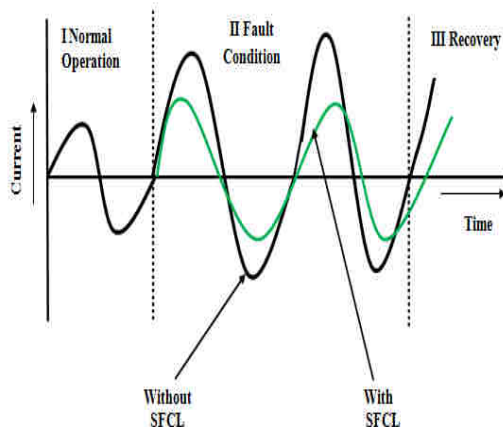


Fig.1: Current during Normal and Faulty Condition [9, 10].

The current during steady state and fault condition with and without SFCL is shown in Fig.1.

## II. SIMULATION MODELLING OF AN SFCL IN MATLAB/ SIMULINK

Matlab/Simulink is used to design and implement the model of Resistive SFCL. There are various parameters out of which four fundamental parameters are used to design Resistive SFCL [11-14]. These parameters are:

- Transition/Response time
- Minimum and Maximum Impedance
- Triggering Current
- Recovery time

The SFCL working voltage is 22.9kV. The SFCL parameters with their values are shown in Table.1. The SFCL model developed in Simulink/SimPower System is shown in Fig.2 SFCL model calculates the RMS value of the flowing current and then compares it with the triggering or critical current which is defined in the Matlab function program [15]. If a passing current is larger than the critical current level and Temperature is below critical temperature of Yttrium Barium Copper Oxide (YBCO) superconducting material, then SFCL resistance increases to maximum impedance level in a pre-defined response time otherwise it adds minimum resistance in the circuit. The critical temperature of YBCO superconducting material is 93K or -183°C. In fault condition, voltage get reduced, controlled voltage source is used to compensate the voltage sag problem [16, 17]. The product of flowing current and impedance is applied as an input to the controlled voltage source. Finally when the flowing current level falls below the critical current level the system waits until the recovery time and then goes into steady state. The important parameter to be given in SFCL is the current limiting

resistance value. It is stored in user Matlab Function program [18].

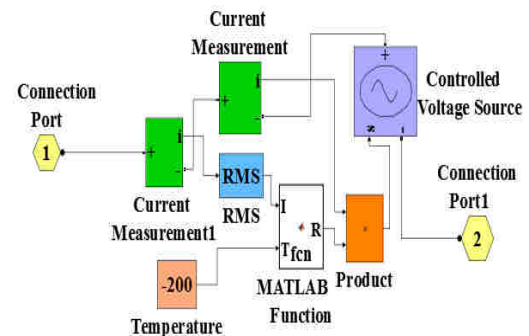


Fig.2: Model of a Resistive SFCL in Matlab/ Simulink

Table 1 Fundamental Parameters of AC SFCL [19, 20]

S. No	Parameters	Value
1.	Transition/Response time	2ms
2.	Minimum Impedance	0.01Ω
3.	Maximum Impedance	20Ω
4.	Recovery Time	10ms
5.	Triggering Current	550A

## III. SIMULINK MODEL OF THREE PHASE SYSTEM

The SFCL model is integrated into a power system to simulate its performance in a grid. Here a Simple three phase system is designed in Matlab/Simulink which consists of power source and load [21]. The three phase system in steady state condition is shown in Fig.3.

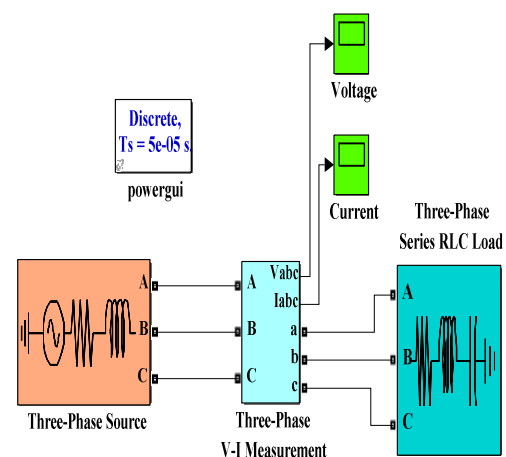


Fig.3: Three Phase System at Steady State Condition

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The SFCL reduces the fault current within the first cycle than other devices. The implementation of SFCL in the power system increases the reliability and integrity. In normal condition the magnitude of current and voltage is shown in Fig.4 and Fig.5 respectively. A three-phase to ground fault has been triggered at time 0.1 s and lasts till the end of the simulation [22]. The current and voltage waveform during fault condition without SFCL is shown in Fig.6 and Fig.7 respectively.

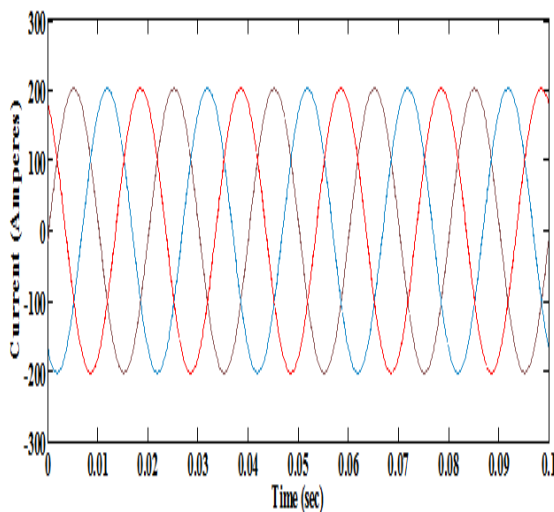


Fig. 4: Three Phase Current Waveform in Steady State Condition

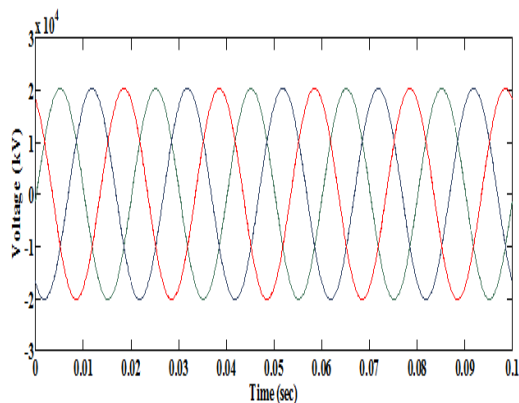


Fig.5: Three Phase Voltage Waveform in Steady State Condition

In Fig.6, it could be noted that when there is no SFCL applied in the system, the peak value of the three phase fault current could be as high as about 3kA and in Fig.7 voltage drop to zero in faulty condition.

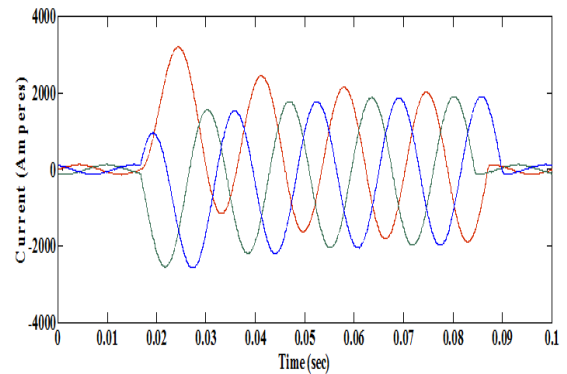


Fig.6: Three phase Current Waveform during Fault Condition

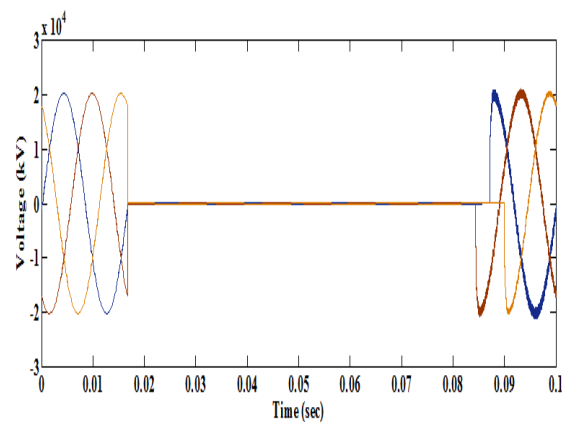


Fig.7: Three Phase Voltage Waveform during Fault Condition without SFCL

In faulty condition the magnitude of fault current could be high as about 3 kA. This high magnitude of fault current has to be reduced within the rating of protective equipments. This can be achieved by implementing the SFCL in three phase system. After implement the SFCL in the system the peak value of three phase fault current reduced to 400A as shown in Fig.8 and voltage also build up to 20kV as shown in Fig.9 which were reduced to zero in fault condition without SFCL.

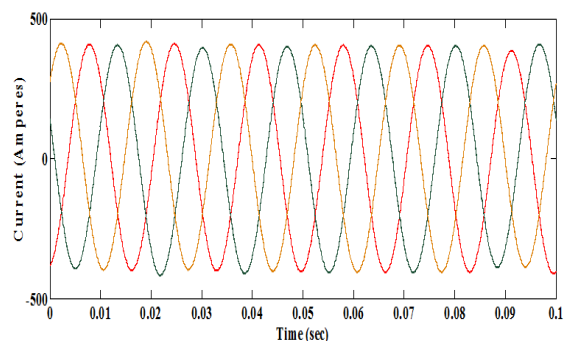


Fig. 8: Current Waveform during Fault Condition with SFCL

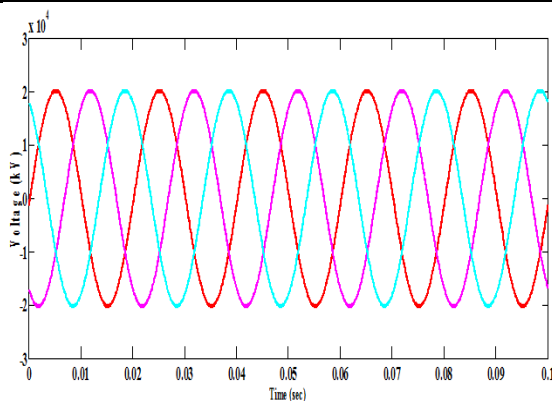


Fig.9: Three Phase Voltage Waveform during Fault Condition with SFCL

Table II shows the current limitation rate during steady state condition, fault condition without SFCL and fault with SFCL condition. In steady state condition peak value of current is 200A with and without SFCL, but when fault occurs peak value of current increase upto 3kA. The presence of SFCL reduces the peak value upto 400A. This gives 50% reduction in fault current.

Table II Current Limitation Rate in a Three Phase Simulation System [23-25]

S.NO	Item	Current Peak value under steady state	Current Peak value during fault	Rate of limitation
1.	without SFCL	200A	3kA	0%
2.	with SFCL	200A	400A	50%

## V. CONCLUSION

The SFCL is a promising device to limit the increased fault level caused by the expansion of power grid and integration of renewable energy sources. A resistive type SFCL considering the temperature of YBCO superconducting material is developed in the Matlab/Simulink. In this paper SFCL model has been integrated in the simple three phase system consisting source, load and measurement blocks. The simulated current waveforms from this integrated model were analyzed in different operating conditions. The results are tabulated in table which shows that, using SFCL module the transient rise in fault current are suppressed to a desired value using SFCL. From table also conclude that, the resistive SFCL module have ability to limit the sudden rise in fault current by providing the sufficient value of

resistance. The SFCL not only suppress the magnitude of fault current but also compensate the voltage sag during fault condition.

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